

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DECEMBER 28, 2004

The Hall County Board of Supervisors met December 28, 2004, by published call in the county board meeting room, 121 South Pine, Grand Island.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Richard Hartman, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Robert Rye. Also present was Deputy Hall County Attorney Michelle Oldham and a representative from the *Grand Island Independent*.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Eriksen made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Accept and place on file the minutes of the December 14 meeting
2. 23 Accept and place on file the office report from the Hall County Register of Deeds
3. 24 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's Miscellaneous Receipts
4. 25 Accept and place on fill communications as received.

Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT HALL COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS NOVEMBER 2004

DOCUMENTARY STAMP FEES	\$ 7,713.31
RECORDING FEES	\$19,148.00
PHOTO COPY FEES	\$ 470.40

1a AWARD PRESENTATION SGT RON OSCHNER HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – Chairman Lancaster stated that at the NACO convention NIRMA recognized Sergeant Ron Oschner for his exceptional efforts to control cost in automobile claims. Lancaster presented Sergeant Oschner with a certificate from Hall County in appreciation of his effort, with the budget constraints it is appreciated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chairman Lancaster called for public participation and no one responded.

6. AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – PROCEED WITH INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE BILL – Lancaster stated that the audit committee had met and discussed the draft legislative bill regarding the lid restrictions. The county lives under two lids, and are currently allowed only a 2.5% increase. The committee met with Senator Landis, with the state revenue committee, and has formulated some thoughts for the proposed legislation. The new proposal would allow a 3.5% increase from growth instead of the 2.5% increase. Senator Kremer has been gracious enough to assist the county to bring this proposal forward. A copy of the draft is included in the board's packets.

Arnold expressed concern on the inmate reimbursements from the state. When the county does not receive this revenue it is a shortfall for the county.

The audit committee recommended bringing this forward. Jeffries made a motion and Rye seconded to move this draft forward to the legislative body.

Hartman stated that he is opposed to this proposal because it is just a way to raise taxes and he cannot support that.

Jeffries stated the he is always on the conservative side and tries to save money, but the county is in a delimita because we do not have enough money to purchase equipment or police cars. We can get by, but the county cannot continue to operate this way. If this continues the county will have to cut people and services.

Arnold stated that any time a county experiences growth this is added expense for the county. As a result counties are not excited about economic development. He expressed concern on the inmate reimbursement and this expense should not impact county government because the state does not pay the fees. He also expressed concern on the fact that the county cannot use the growth to lower the tax asking.

Eriksen stated that he does not want to raise property taxes, but the people expect certain services. He questioned if there are other methods like state payments for housing inmates to help the county's revenue. If the county would receive the revenue it would have more flexibility.

Jeffries stated that the budget has to be approved by the board and even if more money is available the board does not have to spend it. He expressed concern on financing projects that would benefit the entire county and the fact that the justice system budget continues to increase. The County still needs to have enough money to operate.

Lancaster stated that if the 2.5% could be raised it could be used to cover the cost of living increases and the additional valuation from growth could be used to cover necessary purchases for the county. She also expressed concern that the justice

system budget is 54% of the entire budget and even though the jail issue failed it is still needed.

Senator Kremer state that he is comfortable with parts of the proposed legislation but the 3.5% increase would affect all taxing entities and this would have a big impact on the state. He is concerned on this issue. The issue on the use of the growth and the inmate reimbursements need to be addressed. He questioned how many other counties are having these same problems?

Jeffries stated that Perkins County was having budget issues and they did not fund the fire districts in the county levy. Senator Kremer questioned if other counties had been contacted and if the board had talked to Larry Dix with NACO. He would be able to provide some statistical information. This legislation would help other counties. They would also be able to use the percentage increase.

Lancaster stated that she did not realize the total affect the 3.5% increase would have with other taxing entities.

Lancaster thanked Senator Kremer for his time and his remarks.

Senator Ray Aguilar 706 Grand Avenue, came forward. He questioned if Hall County is the only one experiencing this type of growth. He questioned if NACO supports this proposed legislation. He stated that he would be interested to know how many other counties have similar problems and would like to see that information. The county would need to have 25 votes to pass the legislation and this is difficult to do. Lancaster thanked Senator Aguilar for his comments.

The vote on the motion to proceed with the proposed legislation was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and Hartman voted no. Motion carried.

5 PUBLIC WORKS – APPROVE RESOLUTIONS TO PURCHASE RIGHT OF WAY FOR STPE 21 170(3) – County Surveyor Dan Hostler was present. He has purchased the right-of-way for the 1-R road project and these are the resolutions to accept the deeds.

Jeffries made a motion and Hartman seconded to approve Resolution #04-0070 to accept the warranty deed for the purchase of right-of-way from Robert D. and Patricia J. Hancock. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Held a 5-minute break until 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Returned to regular session.

10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING FOR VACATING A PORTION OF 80TH ROAD – Jeffries made a motion and Humiston seconded to open the public hearing. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Chairman Lancaster called for public participation regarding the vacation of 80th road. No one responded.

Eriksen stated that he has had conversation with the Army Corp of Engineers and they do not have a problem with the closing of this portion of 80th Road.

Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to close the public hearing. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

The neXt step in this process is to offer this road to the township. The townships have 120 days to respond to this notice. If they relinquish ownership then the county can proceed with the closing.

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

16 COMMENCE AUDIT OF BI WEEKLY PAY CLAIMS AND REGULAR CLAIMS AND ACTION ON CLAIM AUDIT – The board members reviewed the claims. Eriksen made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the regular claims and the bi weekly pay claims and authorize the clerk to pay. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS – Hartman, Humiston, Eriksen Rye and Arnold did not have a report.

Jeffries – He reported that the county only received one complaint on the air quality problem in the HHS building on Pine Street. The company has finished the testing and the building and grounds committee will receive the report. Hartman questioned if there was a problem with the floor drains and Jeffries stated that has been checked. Lancaster stated that the study was important and it is a good thing it was done.

Lancaster stated that Ken cooper with the Army Corp of Engineers will be retiring and she will send a note to him thanking him for his services at the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant. There will be a retirement reception in Omaha.

Hartman reported Paul Kemling will be retiring from the Mid Plains board after many years of service. The board acknowledged Mr. Kemling's service at the last Mid Plains meeting.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Chairman Lancaster called for new or unfinished business and no one responded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. the next meeting will be the reorganization meeting
January 11, 2005.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk